

Fall 8-15-1997

ENG 2850-001: Post-Colonial Literatures in English

Jyoti Panjwani
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2850-001: Post-Colonial Literatures in English
Fall 1997

Instructor: Jyoti Panjwani
Office: Ch 339G
Phone #: 581-6288

Section 001 MWF 11:00-11:50
OfficeHours: TBA or by
appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces students to narratives from three geographical areas, India, West Indies and Africa, which have defined themselves with and against European cultures, in particular the British culture. By examining these narratives in their historical and cultural contexts, the course will attempt to study them in a framework which may be called "the psychology of decolonisation".

Issues pertaining to the processes of colonisation, colonial and post-colonial struggles for emancipation, notions of 'home' and 'homelands', conflicts between indigenous traditions and western influences, will be studied; wherever possible these themes will be compared and contrasted within the Indian, West Indian and African literatures.

From India, we shall read writings by R.K. Narayan, Raja Rao, Anita Desai, and Mulk Raj Anand; from West Indies, we shall read novel by George Lamming and from Africa, we will read novels by Chinua Achebe, Thiong'o wa Ngugi and Tayeb Salih.

Texts Required:

India

R.K. Narayan. The Guide

Anita Desai. Clear Light of Day

Mulk Raj Anand. Selected Short Stories

Stephen Alter and Wimal Dissanayake. The Penguin Book of Modern Indian Short Stories

Africa

Chinua Achebe. Things Fall Apart

Thiong'o wa Ngugi. Weep not Child

Tayeb Salih. Season of Migration to the North

West Indies

George Lamming. In the Castle of My Skin

Course Requirements:

Two 3-5 page essays - 20% x 2 = 40%

Midterm - 20%

Final - 20%

Class Presentation, Group activity, in-class writings - 10%

Active preparation and participation - 10%

Course Policies:

Discussion (participation) is a major component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. More than three unexcused absences will bring your final grade down by 1%. Three late appearances equal one unexcused absence.

Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an 'A' essay due on Friday will be a 'F' by next Thursday. ALWAYS MAKE COPIES AND BACK UP YOUR WORK!

Plagiarism Policy (English Department)

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- "The appropriation or imitation of the language, of ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office

Information for students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the co-ordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Tentative Course Syllabus

AUGUST

WEEK 1

M 25: Introduction to the Course

W 27: Introduction to Indian Literature and History

F 29: Movie: "India the Infinite: The Soul of the People"

Discussion: Cultural Diversity in Post-colonial Indian society

SEPTEMBER

WEEK 2

M 1: Labor Day: No classes

W 3: Discussion: What is Post-colonialism?

F 5: The Guide by R.K. Narayan

WEEK 3

M 8: continued

W 10: continued

F 12: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing

WEEK 4

M 15: Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai

W 17: continued

F 19: continued

WEEK 5

M 22: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing
W 24: Selected Short Stories of Mulk Raj Anand
F 26: continued

WEEK 6
M 29: continued

OCTOBER

W 1: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing
F 3: Modern Indian Short Stories

WEEK 7
M 6: continued
W 8: continued
F 10: continued

WEEK 8
M 13: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing
W 15: Paper 1 due. Review session on India, bring your questions and concerns
F 17: Midterm

WEEK 9
M 20: Introduction to Post-colonial African literature and history
W 22: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
F 24: continued

WEEK 10
M 27: continued
W 29: Movie: "An Interview with Chinua Achebe"
F 31: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing

NOVEMBER

WEEK 11
M 3: Weep not Child by Thiong'o wa Ngugi
W 5: continued
F 7: continued

WEEK 12
M 10: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing
W 12: Season of Migration to the North by Tayeb Salih
F 14: continued

WEEK 13
M 17: continued
W 19: Discussion: Reading Post-colonial literatures in English versus those in translation. Does the use of English, the language of the colonizer, undermine the reconstructive efforts of the Post-colonial writers?
F 21: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing

NOV 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,: Thanksgiving recess

DECEMBER

WEEK 14

M 1: Introduction to West Indian literature and history

W 3: In the Castle of My Skin by George Lamming

F 5: continued

WEEK 15

M 8: continued

W 10: student presentation/group activity/in-class writing

F 12: Paper 2 due, Review Session on West Indies and Africa.